

## **TEXAS COMMISSION ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY**

### **West Fertilizer Company dba Adair Grain, Inc. Incident Situation Report #5 April 20, 2013**

Subject: April 17, 2013 Explosion at West Fertilizer Company dba Adair Grain, Inc.

Location: 1471 Jerry Mashek Drive, West (McLennan County), TX 76691

This report covers activities conducted during the fifth operational period, beginning April 19, 2013 at 1900 hours through April 20, 2013, 0700 hours.

1. Mr. Kelly Crunk and Mr. Robert Reed (San Antonio Region) staffed this operational period. Night time operations were reduced as per instructions from the Incident Command Post. EPA and START staff also manned this operational period.
2. Suggestion made and approved by the regional management and the Area Director to have the Houston staff that was scheduled for weekend night time operations to go to the hotel and then return to their home region (Houston) in the morning. Duty roster was revised to reflect reduced staffing.
3. TCEQ will provide night time staff as long as contractors (CTEH) are conducting air monitoring during the same period.
4. The 6<sup>th</sup> Civil Support Team demobilized at approximately 1800 hours April 19, thereby reducing the number of AreaRaes deployed for air monitoring from thirteen to eight.
5. Specific chemicals being monitored by the CST and CTEH included hydrogen cyanide, volatile organic compounds, ammonia, carbon monoxide, chlorine, nitrogen dioxide, and lower explosive limit of methane.
6. As of 1900 hours on April 19, 2013, EPA conducted air monitoring in residential areas around the site, including areas where search and rescue operations are ongoing and areas affected by the evacuation order. Specific chemicals monitored included volatile organic compounds, ammonia, carbon monoxide, and lower explosive limit of methane gas. Nothing above background was noted. EPA performed air monitoring within the facility boundaries during an ATF-led assessment of the incident. Air monitoring criteria included volatile organic compounds, ammonia, carbon monoxide, and lower explosive limit of methane gas. Monitoring instruments did not detect any of the listed parameters.

7. EPA ASPECT airplane resurveyed the site at 1155 hrs (4/19). On-site EPA staff have not received the results of this flight at the time this report was filed.
8. The primary activity for this operational period was continued air monitoring. No concerns noted. Wind direction through the night varied slightly from SE to SSE. Wind speed averaged less than 4.0 mph.
9. Prepared field analysis and graphical representation of AreaRae data.
10. At 2243 hours received notification by FEMA email of Presidential Disaster Declaration for this incident. Specifically, FEMA is authorized to provide emergency protective measures (Category B), including direct Federal assistance, under the Public Assistance program at 75 percent Federal funding. Kevin J. Hannes was named as the Federal Coordinating Officer for federal efforts in the affected area.
11. EPA is preparing an area sampling plan to determine if there are any concerns with possible herbicide/pesticide contamination from chemicals that may have been stored on-site.
12. CTEH and OMI presented a revised Work Area and Community Air Monitoring Work Plan that was reviewed and accepted during the April 19 day shift.
13. Texas Task Force 1 stood down and began preparing for demobilization.